

ABSTRACT

A switch element is configured to extend communications between data lines. The switch element includes a set of ingress devices, a set of center stage devices, and a set of egress devices. Each center stage device is connectable to each ingress device and to each 5 egress device. Each ingress device connects to a corresponding egress device across one of the center stage devices. The center stage switch can be selectively actuated to accommodate a new ingress or egress device across the center stage switch.